

February 4, 1879.

Dr. A. Günther, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The Secretary made the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during January 1879:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of January was 83, of which 2 were by birth, 43 by presentation, 25 by purchase, 9 received in exchange, and 4 received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 96.

The most noticeable additions during the month were:—

1. A Bar-winged Rail (*Rallina pæciptera*, Hartlaub), from the Fiji Islands, purchased of the "Museum Godeffroy" of Hamburg, January 6th, new to the collection.

2. A young male Giraffe (*Camelopardalis giraffa*), received on deposit from Mr. Rice, January 27th, and intended to be purchased if it appear to be perfectly healthy. The recent death of one of the two males of this animal has rendered this proposed acquisition desirable.

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Mr. Slater read the following extract from a letter received from Prof. J. Reinhardt, F.M.Z.S., dated Zoological Museum, Copenhagen, August 2, 1876:—

"There is living at present in the Zoological Gardens of this place a Curassow which seems to deserve some attention.

"It is a '*Mitua*,' agreeing with *M. tuberosa* in possessing a crest of elongated straight feathers, which can be erected quite as in this species; but the beak is differently shaped, and more like that of *M. tomentosa*. It is, however, its colouring which exhibits the chief interest, the belly being pure white, and the tail-feathers broadly tipped with the same colour.

"I never saw such a bird before; and I have failed to find any indication of it in the literature known to me. At first I was inclined to suppose that the bird in question might be, perhaps, the female of *M. tuberosa*; but this suggestion implies that the sexual difference in this case is exactly the contrary to the general rule in the family. It also seems to be a well-established fact that the sexes are alike in the genus *Mitua*; and you yourself have given the weight of your high authority to this statement. Nor does it seem likely that the bird can be the immature or young *Mitua tuberosa*. I have at least never heard of a change of the colour of the abdomen, as a bird advances in age, from white to rufous in any of the Cracidæ. Moreover, as Natterer has collected such a large number of specimens of Curassows (and particularly not less than thirty-four of the two well-known species of *Mitua*), such a change could scarcely have escaped this most acute observer if it really

took place in these birds. Again, the bird does not seem to be a young one.

"The *Mitua* in question, was presented by a patron of our garden, and is there named '*Mitua brasiliensis*.'"

Mr. Slater stated that the bird in question, having recently died, had been presented to the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen, and that Prof. Reinhardt had forwarded it to him for examination. Mr. Slater then proceeded to remark on the specimen, and stated that he quite agreed with Prof. Reinhardt that it must be considered as the representative of a new and distinct species, which Prof. Reinhardt had proposed to call *Mitua salvini*<sup>1</sup>.

Prof. Reinhardt had ascertained the sex by dissection to be *female*; but the male would probably scarcely differ. The dimensions were nearly those of *M. tomentosa*; and the species should stand next to that species in Mr. Slater's arrangement ('Trans. Zool. Soc. vol. ix. p. 284), with the following differential characters:—

*Nigra purpureo nitens; ventre imo et caudæ apice albis; pilei plumis elongatis, sicut in M. tuberosa jacentibus; loris et capitis lateribus dense plumosis; rostro sicut in M. tomentosa formato sed paulo longiore et minus alto, toto rubro; pedibus rubris; long. tota circ. 2·10, alæ 15, caudæ 12·5, tarsi 4·7.*

*Obs. Sp. ventre albo satis distincta, quoad rostrum ad M. tomentosam, sed quoad cristam magis ad M. tuberosam appropinquans.*

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Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe exhibited a series of Bulwer's Pheasants (*Lobiophasis bulweri*) from the Lawas river, N.W. Borneo, collected by Mr. W. H. Treacher, Acting Governor of Labuan. The series represented every stage of plumage of this Pheasant, and conclusively proved that *L. castaneicaudatus*, Sharpe, was the immature male of *L. bulweri*.

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The following papers were read:—

1. Notes on Points in the Anatomy of the Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus cristatus*). By A. H. GARROD, M.A., F.R.S., Prosector to the Society.

[Received December 9, 1878.]

Prof. Newton having most kindly placed in my hands for dissection three specimens of *Opisthocomus cristatus* preserved in spirit, I am able to add a few details to the accounts which have already appeared on the structure of this peculiar bird.

In his valuable paper in this Society's 'Proceedings', "On the Classification and Distribution of the Alektoromorphæ and Hetero-

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Vid. Medd. Nat. For. i Kjöbenhavn, Jan. 8, 1879.

<sup>2</sup> P. Z. S. 1868, p. 294.